

Listing of Claims:

Ab C

1. (Currently Amended) An image pickup device equipped with a light emitter, comprising:

an image pickup unit which picks up an image and converts the picked-up image into an electric signal;

5 a memory adapted to store image data corresponding to the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit;

Bk M

a determining section which makes a determination of whether or not the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit has a proper brightness, in a case where the image is picked up by 10 the image pickup unit with light emitted from the light emitter;

a controller which controls the memory to store the image data corresponding to the electric signal used by the determining section for making the determination if a result of the determination of the determining section is "proper"; and

15 a wherein the light emitter which is controlled by the controller to emit light in timing with an image pickup timing of the image pickup device.

2. (Currently Amended) An image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein when the result of the determination of the determining section is "not proper", the controller obtains 5 determines a light quantity of the light emitter which is assumed to be "proper" based on the electric signal produced by the image

pickup unit, dispatches an image pickup instruction again to the image pickup unit, and at the same time, controls the light emitter to emit light, a quantity of which is equivalent to the light quantity determined by the controller, in timing with the 10 image pickup timing.

3/20/01
3. (Previously Presented) An image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein the controller prohibits storing in the memory of the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit when the result of the determination of the determining section 5 is "not proper".

4. (Previously Presented) An image pickup device according to claim 3, wherein when an electric signal produced by the image pickup unit in timing with a first light emission of the light emitter is "not proper", the controller controls the memory to 5 store electric signals converted by the image pickup unit in timing with second and subsequent light emissions of the light emitter.

5. (Currently Amended) An image pickup device equipped with a strobe stroboscopic light emitter, comprising:

an image pickup unit which picks up an image of an object and converts the image into an electric signal;

5 a memory adapted to store image data corresponding to the
electric signal produced by the image pickup unit;

 a determining section in a CPU which makes a determination
of whether or not the electric signal produced by the image
pickup unit is a proper image, in a case where the image is
10 picked up by the image pickup unit with light emitted from the
stroboscopic light emitter, and wherein the ~~a~~ stroboscopic
light emitter ~~which~~ emits light of a desired intensity in
synchronism with an operation of the image pickup unit; and

 a controller in the CPU which controls the memory to store
15 the image data corresponding to the electric signal used by the
determining section for the determination if a result of the
determination of the determining section is "proper", and which
computes an intensity of the light emitted from the stroboscopic
light emitter if the result of the determination of the
20 determining section is "not proper, wherein the intensity of
light is based on the electric signal used by the determination
section for the determination and is estimated to enable the
result of the determination to become "proper", and wherein the
controller again instructs the image pickup unit to pick up an
25 image and also instructs the stroboscopic light emitter to emit
light in synchronism with the image pickup operation of the image
pickup unit.

6. (Currently Amended) An image pickup device equipped with a light emitter, comprising:

an image pickup unit which picks up an image and converts the picked-up image into an electric signal;

5 a memory adapted to store image data corresponding to the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit;

Blank
a determining section which makes a determination of whether or not the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit has a proper brightness, in a case where the image is picked up by 10 the image pickup unit with light emitted from the light emitter;

a controller which controls the memory to store the image data corresponding to the electric signal used by the determining section for the determination if a result of the determination of the determining section is "proper", wherein the a light 15 emitter which is controlled by the controller to emit light in synchronism with an image pickup operation of the image pickup unit; and

an auto-focussing unit for driving an optical system to focus on an object.

7. (Previously Presented) An image pickup device according to claim 6, wherein when the result of the determination of the determining section is "not proper", the controller obtains a light quantity of the light emitter which is assumed to be

5 "proper" based on the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit, dispatches an image pickup instruction again to the image pickup unit, and at the same time, controls the light emitter to emit light in timing with the image pickup timing.

8. (Previously Presented) An image pickup device according to claim 7, wherein the controller obtains a light emission quantity of the light emitter by referring to information of a distance to the object obtained by an auto-focussing operation of the auto-focussing unit.

9. (Previously Presented) An image pickup device according to claim 7, wherein the controller controls the light emitter to carry out a first light emission in a light emission quantity of the light emitter set by a user operation.

10. (Currently Amended) An image pickup method using a light emitter, comprising:

5 carrying out a first light emission of ~~a~~ the light emitter, and carrying out a first image pickup operation in timing with the first light emission;

determining a brightness of a state of an image picked up by the first image pickup operation carried out in timing with the first light emission;

10 storing the first picked up image data corresponding to an
electric signal subjected to determination of the brightness of
the state of the picked up image, if a result of the
determination is "at or above a predetermined value";

15 determining a second light emission value of the light
emitter if the result of the determination is "less than a
predetermined value";

 carrying out a second light emission of the light emitter
based on the second light emission value, and carrying out a
second image pickup in timing with the second light emission; and
 storing the second picked-up image.

*b1
c1*

11. (Previously Presented) An image pickup device according
to claim 1, further comprising a shutter button which enables a
user to instruct the image pickup device to perform an image
pickup operation, and wherein the controller controls the image
5 pickup unit to execute the image pickup operation in response to
an operation of the shutter button by the user.

12. (Previously Presented) An image pickup device according
to claim 6, further comprising a shutter button which enables a
user to instruct the image pickup device to perform an image
pickup operation, and wherein the controller controls the image

5 pickup unit to execute the image pickup operation in response to an operation of the shutter button by the user.

13. (New) An image pickup device equipped with a light emitter, comprising:

an image pickup unit which picks up an image and converts the picked-up image into an electric signal;

5 a memory adapted to store image data corresponding to the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit;

a pre-emission instructing unit which instructs the light emitter to emit light in timing with a first image pickup timing of the image pickup unit;

10 a main emission instructing unit which instructs the light emitter to emit light in timing with a second image pickup timing of the image pickup unit;

15 a determining section which makes a determination of whether or not an electric signal which is produced by a first image pickup operation and conversion of the image pickup unit has a proper brightness; and

20 means for controlling the memory to store image data corresponding to an electric signal subjected to determination by the determining section, if a result of the determination by the determining section is "proper", and for controlling the memory to store image data corresponding to an electric signal which is

produced by a second image pickup operation and conversion of the image pickup unit, if the result of the determination by the determining section is "not proper";

25 wherein the light emitter is controlled by one of the pre-emission instructing unit and the main emission instructing unit to emit light in timing with one of the first and second image pickup timings of the image pickup unit.

*B1
CON*

14. (New) An image pickup device according to claim 13, further comprising a proper light-quantity determining section for determining, when the result of the determination by the determining section is "not proper", a quantity of light from the 5 light emitter which is estimated to enable the result of the determination to become "proper", based on the electric signal produced by the first image pickup operation and conversion of the image pickup device.
